In the Claims:

1. (original) A method of operating a computing device, the method comprising, in response to a request from a user to carry out an operation using the device, determining the time period since the identity of the user was authenticated, and enabling the requested operation in dependence upon the determined time period and the purpose of the requested operation.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the identity of the user is authenticated using a pass phrase.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the identity of the user is authenticated using biometric information.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 comprising determining the time period since the identity of the user was last authenticated.

5. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the requested operation is enabled if the determined time period is less than or equal to a time period set by the user.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the time period set for one type of operation is a multiple of a time period set for another type of operation.

7. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the time period for a type of operation is arranged to expire upon completion of the immediately preceding operation of the same type.

8.   (currently amended)   A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ <u>claim 1</u> wherein categories of operations used to determine the purpose for a requested operation are set by the user.

9.   (currently amended)   A computing device arranged to operate in accordance with a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ <u>claim 1</u>.

10.   (original)   A computing device according to claim 9 comprising a mobile phone.

11.   (currently amended) Computer software arranged to cause a computing device ~~as claimed in claim 9 or 10~~ to operate in accordance with a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ <u>claim 1</u>.

REMARKS

This application is a national phase filing of PCT/GB2004/005275 filed on December 16, 2004 and GB 0329835.3 filed on December 23, 2003, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated in total by reference.

The claims have been amended to place them into proper formatting and style and to eliminate multiple dependencies.

No new matter has been added.

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Respectfully submitted,

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